

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/072 W

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R 211647Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UN

SUBJECT: FRG MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. AT ITS LAST MEETING BEFORE EASTER THE FRG CABINET
FORMALLY APPROVED THE CANDIDACY OF THE FRG FOR ELECTION
TO A WEO SEAT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR A TWO YEAR
TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1977.

2. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, GRUENEWALD, ANNOUNCED
THE CABINET DECISION IN A LOW KEY MANNER. HE DOWN-
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PLAYED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ELECTION ON ADVICE FROM

THE FONOFF. THE FONOFF FEARS THAT THE FRG WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH IT HAS TO DATE AVOIDED BY WRAPPING ITSELF IN THE CLOAK OF EC SOLIDARITY OR SUPPORTING THE U.S. POSITION.

3. THE CABINET DECISION RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL PLAY IN THE GERMAN PRESS. COMMENTS REFLECTED PRIDE THAT THE FRG'S IMPORTANCE WAS RECEIVING RECOGNITION.

4. HOWEVER, WHEN GRUENEWALD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GDR IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN JANUARY OF 1978, AND THAT THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS TWO-YEAR TERM WOULD COINCIDE WITH FRG MEMBERSHIP, OPPOSITION CDU/CSU FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN, ABELEIN, SUGGESTED THAT THE SIMULTANEOUS PRESENCE OF THE FRG AND THE GDR IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS NOT DESIRABLE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER REACTED TO THIS STAND BY REJECTING A REVIVAL OF THE HALLSTEIN DOCTRINE IN THE UN CONTEXT. HE SAID THAT THE FRG IS NOT PREPARED TO PULL ITSELF OUT OF WORLD POLITICS OR TO CURTAIL ITS INTERNATIONAL POSSIBILITIES. GENSCHER ALSO SAID THAT THE FRG WILL USE ITS MEMBERSHIP TO ADVOCATE THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE THIRD WORLD. IN THIS RESPECT, THE FRG MAY GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

6. COMMENT: THE FONOFF CLEARLY REGARDS FRG MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A MIXED BLESSING. ON THE ONE HAND IT HELPS COUNTER THE PERENNIAL ARGUMENT THAT THE FRG IS PLAYING A DISPROPORTIONATELY SMALL ROLE IN THE UN GIVEN THE SIZE OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN BUDGET. THIS CONSIDERATION IS OUTWEIGHED BY THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE FRG WILL HAVE TO EXTEND ITS ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY INTO AREAS AND ISSUES THAT IT HAS CHOSEN TO AVOID UP TO NOW. FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD BE HELPFUL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVEN THE CLOSE GENERAL IDENTITY BETWEEN FRG AND U.S. POLICY AIMS. BUT THE FRG POLICY-MAKERS WILL HAVE A TOUGHER TIME THAN THEY HAVE HAD TO DATE IN BALANCING THEIR SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS WITH THE DESIRES TO COORDINATE POLICY WITH OTHER EC MEMBERS AND TO SEEK ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE THIRD WORLD. THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE STANDS ON PROBLEMS THAT RAISE GENUINE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR THEM. GERMAN FOREIGN

POLICY WILL, THEREFORE, BE GOING THROUGH SOME GROWING
PAINS AS PART OF THE FRG'S SECURITY COUNCIL EXPERIENCE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MEMBERSHIP, CABINET MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN06701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760151-0695
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760441/aaaabiae.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TAGS: PFOR, GE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006